1.   A method for providing access to television programs and related

information, the method comprising:

storing at least two program interface objects (PIOs) within an

entertainment system, each PIO comprising a plurality of

attributes carrying information about a television program, a

plurality of user-selectable actions performable by the

entertainment system in connection with the television

program, and at least one visual indicator displayable in a

graphical user interface (GUI) to facilitate user interaction

with the PIO;

linking the at least two PIOs, such that an operation performed in

connection with one PIO may also be performed in

connection with the other PIO.

2.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a user selection of a stored PIO for transmission to

another entertainment system;

transmitting the selected PIO to the other entertainment system;

and

transmitting a PIO linked to the selected PIO to the other

entertainment system.

3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a user selection of an action associated with a stored PIO;

executing the selected action in connection with the stored PIO; and

executing the selected action in connection with a PIO linked to the stored PIO.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a user selection of a stored PIO;

determining whether a PIO linked to the selected PIO is stored in the entertainment system;

in response to a linked PIO not being stored in the entertainment system, retrieving the linked PIO; and

storing the retrieved PIO in the entertainment system.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein retrieving comprises:

establishing a network connection with a PIO server storing the linked PIO;

receiving the linked PIO via the network connection.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

modifying a visual indicator of a PIO to provide a visual cue to a user that the PIO is linked to another PIO.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein linking comprises:

storing within a first PIO a reference to a second PIO.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein linking further comprises:

storing within the second PIO a reference to the first PIO.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the reference is an attribute of the first PIO.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the reference comprises a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the reference comprises a file name.

5   12. The method of claim 7, wherein the reference comprises a memory location.

13. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining that a second PIO linked to a first PIO has been moved

to a new location; and

10   updating the reference in the first PIO to reference the new location

of the second PIO.

14. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

determining that a second PIO linked to a first PIO has been

deleted; and

15   removing the reference in the first PIO referring to the second PIO.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one PIO is linked to at least two different PIOs.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked according to a ring configuration.

20   17. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked according to a chain configuration.

44

18.   The method of claim 1, wherein at least four PIOs are linked according to a star configuration.

19.   The method of claim 1, wherein a first PIO is linked to a second PIO, the second PIO being stored within a different entertainment system.

5   20.   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked according to genre.

21.   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked according to a rating for the associated television programs.

22.   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked

10   according to user-defined criteria.

23.   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two linked PIOs correspond to television programs that have been previously recorded.

24.   The method of claim 1, wherein the PIO is selected from the group consisting of a JavaBean object, a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM)

15   object, and an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) object.

25.   The method of claim 1, wherein the entertainment system comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.

26.   A system for providing access to television programs and related information, the system comprising:

20   computer-readable medium that stores at least two program

                        interface objects (PIOs), each PIO comprising a plurality of

                        attributes carrying information about a television program, a

plurality of user-selectable actions performable by an
entertainment system in connection with the television
program, and at least one visual indicator displayable in a
graphical user interface (GUI) to facilitate user interaction
with the PIO; and

a linking component that links the at least two PIOs, such that an
operation performed in connection with one PIO may also be
performed in connection with the other PIO.

27. The system of claim 26, further comprising:

a selection component that receives a user selection of a stored
PIO for transmission to another entertainment system; and

a transmission component that transmits the selected PIO and a
PIO linked to the selected PIO to the other entertainment
system.

28. The system of claim 26, further comprising:

a selection component that receives a user selection an action
associated with a stored PIO; and

an action component that executes the selected action in
connection with the stored PIO and in connection with a PIO
linked to the stored PIO.

29. The system of claim 26, further comprising:

a selection component that receives a user selection of a stored
PIO; and

a communication component that, in response to determining that a

PIO linked to the selected PIO is not stored in the

entertainment system, retrieves and stores the linked PIO in

a storage device of the entertainment system.

5   30.   The system of claim 29, wherein the communication component

establishes a network connection with a PIO server storing the linked PIO and

receives the linked PIO via the network connection.

31.   The system of claim 26, wherein the linking component is

configured to modify a visual indicator of a linked PIO to provide a visual cue to a

10   user that the PIO is linked to another PIO.

32.   The system of claim 26, wherein the linking component stores

within a first PIO a reference to a second PIO.

33.   The system of claim 32, wherein the linking component stores

within the second PIO a reference to the first PIO.

15   34.   The system of claim 32, wherein the reference is an attribute of the

first PIO.

35.   The system of claim 32, wherein the reference comprises a Uniform

Resource Locator (URL).

36.   The system of claim 32, wherein the reference comprises a file

20   name.

37.   The system of claim 32, wherein the reference comprises a memory

location.

38.   The system of claim 32, wherein the linking component, in response to a determination that a second PIO linked to a first PIO has been moved to a new location, updates the reference in the first PIO to reference the new location of the second PIO.

39.   The system of claim 32, wherein the linking component, in response to a determination that a second PIO linked to a first PIO has been deleted, removes the reference in the first PIO referring to the second PIO.

40.   The system of claim 26, wherein at least one PIO is linked to at least two different PIOs.

41.   The system of claim 26, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked according to a ring configuration.

42.   The system of claim 26, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked according to a chain configuration.

43.   The system of claim 26, wherein at least four PIOs are linked according to a star configuration.

44.   The system of claim 26, wherein a first PIO is linked to a second PIO, the second PIO being stored within a different entertainment system.

45.   The system of claim 26, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked according to genre.

46.   The system of claim 26, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked according to a rating for the associated television programs.

47.   The system of claim 26, wherein the at least two PIOs are linked according to user-defined criteria.

48.   The system of claim 26, wherein the at least two linked PIOs correspond to television programs that have been previously recorded.

5   49.   The system of claim 26, wherein the PIO is selected from the group consisting of a JavaBean object, a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM) object, and an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) object.

50.   The system of claim 26, wherein the entertainment system comprises an interactive television (ITV) system.